The day after Thanksgiving shoppers flocked to malls, department stores, and everything in between to take part in the one and only shopping day with its very own name: Black Friday. Early morning risers stumbled into lines dreary eyed and coffee stained to await the openings of their favorite stores.

For some, the bargain hunting began as early as midnight, while others chose a more reasonable hour later in the day. Either way, one was sure to find packed parking lots and endless lines.

Junior Caila Roberts started her shopping excursion at midnight with friends Camille Bauer, Rachel Brinson, and Meg Parker. The four of them visited some of the busiest areas, including Target, Old Navy, and Northlake Mall.

Along with finding good deals, the girls encountered an unbelievably large number of fellow shoppers.

“We just wanted to go and have fun, but it didn’t turn out to be as good as I thought it would be. I would never do it again. There were too many people, the lines were too long, and the sales weren’t that great. We bought a lot anyways though, and we got lots of Christmas shopping done early,” said Roberts.

The frantic atmosphere of Black Friday may not be for everyone, but there are some who blend right in with the craziness of the day, such as junior Rachel Wallon.

“Black Friday is so much fun! It’s crazy, but I love it. I waited outside of Target for four hours to get a camera and the line went around the store and into one of the neighborhoods across the street. We brought snacks and played cards while we were waiting. There were almost 200 people in the line behind us,” said Wallon.

This year, Black Friday turned out to be more profitable than those previous, even with the country’s bad economy. Many attribute this to earlier opening times.

In past years, most stores opened their doors at 6 a.m., but this year Wal-Mart and Target let in shoppers at midnight. These earlier openings attracted a large number of young shoppers eager for both good deals and a fun time.

Junior Rachel Brinson would never pass up the opportunity of an all day shopping event, but the early hours were not something she particularly enjoyed.

“It was so early and I could barely keep my eyes open at first. But when the coffee kicked in I was back to my normal self. The rest of the morning was good from there,” said Brinson.

The early hours and never ending lines, however exhausting, turned out to be worth it for most, and the day went by with almost no trouble. Shoppers everywhere went home happy with their purchases, some awaiting next year’s shopping adventure, and others vowing to sleep in and not waste their time.